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VETERANS' WELFARE COMMISSION

STATE OF MONTANA

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B I E N I A L R E P O R T

December 9, 1964

to

December 1, 1966

COMMISSIONERS

Russell Lindborg  
Missoula

Charles Lelek  
Lewistown

William C. Hardie  
Billings

Walter Barnard  
Butte

Kenneth Leslie  
Great Falls

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HARRY E. SAWYER  
Director



Helena, Montana  
December 1, 1966

Governor Tim Babcock, Board of Examiners,  
and Members of the Legislature:

This Report is for the purpose of presenting the activities of the Veterans' Welfare Commission of the State of Montana for 1965-1966.

A conscientious effort has been made to record as accurately as possible the amounts obtained in benefits for the veterans of Montana. There are many services rendered of a humanitarian nature that cannot be measured by monetary amounts, yet these services may have been of equal or greater importance.

The mission of the Veterans' Welfare Commission, as established by the Legislative Assembly, is as stated in the law: " It shall be the duty of the Commission and it shall have the power to establish a statewide service for discharged veterans and their families; to actively cooperate with state and federal agencies having to do with the affairs of veterans and their families; and to promote the general welfare of all veterans and their families. "

For the purpose of carrying out this mission, the Veterans' Welfare Commission is organized with a State and local office in Helena, and eight (8) offices in strategic locations in the state. The State office maintains folders on veterans and dependents whom this organization has assisted in claims. There is also a Claims Officer at the Fort Harrison Veterans Administration Regional Office. This individual represents veterans in their claims before the Rating Board, and any other agency of the Veterans Administration. He also visits veterans who are patients in the Fort Harrison hospital to assist them with their various problems. In addition, the eight (8) offices located in the state proper are manned by a Service Officer and a secretary. The Service Officer not only assists veterans in his home office, but also travels on an itinerant basis into adjoining counties in order to be of assistance. The Director and staff in Helena coordinates the activities of the Service Officers, and is a liaison between the Veterans Administration and the veterans.

The functions of the Veterans Welfare Commission:

1. Assistance is rendered when assistance is needed regarding compensation, pension, hospitalization, insurance, outpatient treatment, loans, education and training, for veterans, their widows, and dependents.
  - (a) No VA benefit is automatic, it must be applied for, so the VWC files initial claims for a beneficiary
  - (b) The VA cannot prosecute claims against itself, so the VWC,
    - (1) Obtains evidence to develop a claim, or to reopen a claim:
    - (2) Obtains necessary marital documents such as Marriage Certificates, Divorce Decrees, or Birth Certificates:
    - (3) Acts as veterans' and dependents' representative on claims:



- (4) Reviews claims at the request of a claimant and advises him or her as to possibility of reopening a denied claim, or information needed to apply for an increase in benefits. Obtains medical and/or lay statements to be used for these claims;
  - (5) Prepares appeals on claims for review and decision by the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.
  - (6) Requests Administrative Reviews by the officials in Washington, D.C., on worthwhile or deserving claims.
1. Forwards a brief of arguments to accompany appeals to the Board of Veterans Appeals.
  3. Renders assistance to morticians or veterans' families in obtaining burial benefits, flag, and headstone or marker at the time of the veteran's death and burial.
  4. Assists veterans in obtaining reviews of Discharges, and replacement of lost or destroyed Discharges.
  5. Provides humanitarian services in counselling and advising veterans, their widows and orphans. This is the service that cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but is one of the most important functions of the VWC Service Officers.
  6. Furnishes information on veterans' rights and benefits to veterans' groups, civic organizations, and to county and city officials, when called upon to do so.
  7. Assists like agencies from other states in problems involving veterans' Bonus, procuring needed evidence, or obtaining documents pertaining to vital statistics. The Commission also writes to the other states for like information.
  8. Assists in transferring veterans from the State Hospital at Warm Springs, to the VA Hospital at Sheridan, Wyoming.

At all times a veteran is:-

1. The most important person in our business;
2. Not someone to argue with;
3. Not an interruption during our work - he is the purpose of our activity;
4. A person who comes to us because he is in need of help or information - it is our job to assist him;
5. The one most deserving of our most courteous and attentive treatment;
6. Not one who is doing us a favor by coming to us - we are here to serve him;
7. Not a statistic - he is a flesh and blood human being and not just a hole on an IBM card.





As the State Director of the Veterans' Welfare Commission, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Commission for their close cooperation and assistance to myself and other personnel of the Commission throughout the year, to the Governor, and to the Board of Examiners for their full cooperation in matters presented to them. I wish to especially thank the Service Officers and stenographers in the field, and the personnel in the Helena office, for a job well done. I know they all join me in pledging the same superior service that has become our standard.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY E. SAWYER  
Director

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the English language. It is noted that the English language has a long and rich history, and that the study of its history is essential for a full understanding of the language. The paper then discusses the various factors that have influenced the development of the English language, including the influence of other languages, the influence of social and cultural changes, and the influence of technological advances.

2. The second part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the English language. It is noted that the English language has a long and rich history, and that the study of its history is essential for a full understanding of the language. The paper then discusses the various factors that have influenced the development of the English language, including the influence of other languages, the influence of social and cultural changes, and the influence of technological advances.

## S U M M A R Y

These Summaries cover the periods July 1, 1945, thru December 1, 1966, and December 9, 1964 to December 1, 1966.

The monetary amounts represent the amount paid the claimant during that time. The veteran receives monthly payments in varying degrees; the widows during their lifetime, unless remarried or have excessive income; dependent children until they reach the age of eighteen, or have completed their education, but not beyond the age of twenty-three, unless the child becomes so disabled prior to reaching the age of eighteen that he is incapable of self-support. In this case he may continue to draw benefits for life.

Children of persons who died in service or of a service-incurred disability, are entitled to educational benefits from the age of eighteen, but not beyond their twenty-third birthday.

The children of a permanently totally disabled veteran are also entitled to educational benefits between their eighteenth and twenty-third birthdays, provided the veteran's disabilities arose during the period in which he served.



# S U M M A R Y

December 9, 1964 to December 1, 1966

NONSERVICE PENSION:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Amount</u>
World War I .....	335	\$ 226,124.46
World War II .....	295	249,559.12
Korean .....	3	3,908.00

## INCREASES IN PENSION:

Spanish-American War .....	5	2,830.85
World War I .....	89	81,260.93
World War II .....	40	30,911.09

## DISABILITIES INCURRED IN SERVICE:

World War I .....	3	561.00
World War II .....	74	31,149.00
Korean .....	38	23,343.00
Peacetime .....	87	38,901.00

## INCREASES IN COMPENSATION:

World War I .....	14	11,648.75
World War II .....	168	129,088.00
Korean .....	35	32,296.00
Peacetime .....	26	11,627.00

## BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF DECEASED VETERANS:

Spanish-American War .....	10	6,672.40
World War I .....	359	188,857.32
World War II .....	510	358,511.34
Korean .....	62	46,759.64
Peacetime .....	16	19,424.50
Accrued Benefits .....	27	2,386.29
Gratuity Insurance Benefits .....	3	15,000.00
Insurance Payments .....	148	842,913.94
War Orphans Educational Benefits .....	57	

Appeals Allowed .....	14	
Applications for Automobiles allowed .....	1	
Applications for Hospitalization .....	1202	
Applications for Outpatient Treatment.....	203	
Applications for Special Housing Allowed .....	2	
Applications for Unauthorized Medical & Hospital Service Benefits Allowed .....	22	8,990.64
Burial Benefits .....	728	184,274.07
Cold War Educational Benefits (Veterans) from 7-1-1966	485	130,394.94
Favorable Review Discharge Allowed .....	1	
Restoration of Benefits .....	1	
Totally Disabled for Insurance Purposes .....	24	
Waiver of Premiums .....	22	
Waiver of Overpayment in Benefits .....	4	8,673.10

Total .....	5113	\$2,686,066.28
Denied Pension and Compensation Claims.....	548	
Claims Pending Adjudication, December 1, 1966 .....	202	
Contacts in Field Service 1965-1966 .....	73,226	

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Total Data Since Reorganization of Commission, July 1, 1945, to and  
Including December 1, 1966.

**NONSERVICE PENSION:**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Spanish-American War .....	3	\$ 4,315.40
World War I .....	9254	3,716,234.13
World War II .....	1262	839,426.21
Korean War .....	49	38,315.12

**DISABILITIES INCURRED IN SERVICE:**

World War I .....	62	34,918.40
World War II .....	4271	869,112.40
Korean War .....	1045	399,359.17
Peacetime .....	368	144,010.20

**INCREASES IN PENSION:**

Spanish-American War .....	24	14,504.79
World War I .....	391	214,623.30
World War II .....	83	55,196.20
Korean War .....	1	870.00

**INCREASES IN COMPENSATION:**

World War I .....	1090	411,430.69
World War II .....	1270	683,303.80
Korean War .....	122	79,382.00
Peacetime .....	69	40,769.00

**DEPENDENTS OF DECEASED VETERANS BENEFITS:**

Indian Wars .....	2	2,280.00
Spanish-American War .....	154	82,079.25
World War I .....	2838	1,243,470.48
World War II .....	2601	1,585,719.74
Korean War .....	378	279,217.92
Peacetime .....	54	57,437.27
Accrued Benefits .....	210	16,072.31
Gratuity Insurance Benefits .....	3	15,000.00
Insurance Payments(Proceeds not listed to 1961)	882	1,991,200.57
Special Dividends .....	36	3,305.16
Prisoner of War Claims .....	37	10,009.50
Appeals Allowed .....	271	
Applications for Automobiles .....	40	
Applications for Hospitalization .....	10,671	
Applications for Outpatient Treatment .....	9,567	
Applications for Special Housing .....	11	
Burial Benefits .....	2,646	523,663.31
Claims for Disability Insurance .....	61	
Claims for Unauthorized Medical & Hospital Services.	132	23,326.60
Dental Claims .....	3606	
Educational Benefits, Orphans .....	141	
Educational Benefits, Cold War(from 7-1-66).....	485	130,394.94
Favorable Report on Request for Change of Discharge.	11	
Prisoner of War Claims (Veterans) .....	60	31,635.00
Refund Overpayment on Loan .....	1	437.90
Reinstatement of Insurance .....	3	
Restoration of Benefits .....	1	
Restoration Veteran's Rights .....	1	
Special Awards (Blindness, Loss of Use of Limbs,etc, Included in Compensation & Pension after 1958)...	12	
Waiver of Overpayment(Pension).....	24	13,552.00
Waiver of Overpayment (Subsistence) .....	3	589.00
Waiver of Premiums .....	273	

Total.... 54,579 \$13,555,161.76

Total Field Contacts, 7-1-45 to 12-1-66... 957,374





YEAR	APPROPRIATION	AMOUNT RETURNED TO GENERAL FUND
7-1-1941 to 7-1-1943	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
7-1-1943 to 7-1-1945	\$ 17,000.00	4,232.91
7-1-1943 to 7-1-1945	\$100,000.00 (Special Appropriation)	99,595.35
7-1-1945 to 7-1-1947	400,000.00	99,464.83
7-1-1947 to 7-1-1949	275,000.00	31,410.64
7-1-1949 to 7-1-1951	300,000.00	1,018.31
7-1-1951 to 7-1-1953	320,000.00	1,928.57
7-1-1953 to 7-1-1955	320,000.00	497.00
7-1-1955 to 7-1-1957	321,000.00	2,814.51
7-1-1957 to 7-1-1959	333,700.00	7,653.21
7-1-1959 to 7-1-1961	290,000.00	2,888.00
7-1-1961 to 7-1-1963	246,006.00	2,619.34
7-1-1963 to 7-1-1965	277,875.00	1,081.18
7-1-1965 to 7-1-1967	<u>284,095.00</u>	<u>          </u>
Total .....	\$3,502,776.00	\$259,204.45

